

## August 2, 2006 Potomac Yard Fire Station & Affordable Housing Task Force Meeting Minutes

### August 2, 2006 Work Session Minutes Potomac Yard Fire Station and Affordable Housing Task Force

Andrew Hall of the Del Ray Civic Association called the work session to order at 7:06pm, in the meeting room of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center on Commonwealth Avenue. While the public was invited to attend the work session, comment was not invited.

The following representatives were in attendance:

Andrew Hall  
John Starcher  
Melissa Watson  
Jim Schwartz  
Helen McIlvaine  
Tom Welsh  
Mariella Posey  
Michelle Evans, Deputy City Manager  
Brian Hannigan, Communications Director  
Gary Mesaris, Fire Chief  
John North, Battalion Chief  
Amy Tarce, Planning & Zoning  
Colleen Rafferty, Planning & Zoning

Minutes prepared by: Cameron Hall, Alexandria Fire Department

#### **Outreach**

The task force was assembled in order to educate the citizens of Alexandria about the Potomac Yard project. Currently, there are concerns that a number of citizens are still unaware of the project and the task force discussed ways to widen the outreach.

The Del Ray Sun is publishing an article and a reporter from the Washington Post will be in attendance at the Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> public meeting.

The Warwick Village and the Del Ray Civic Associations have both sent mass emails after each meeting. The Lynhaven Association is scheduled to meet on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and this topic is included on the agenda.

Chief Schwartz stated that because this is a public safety issue and could affect future decision regarding staffing and funding, all citizens from the entire city should be included in the meetings and made aware of the project. As a result, the task force decided that it will be important to include associations and other citizen groups from other portions of the city, including the west side.

The PWBA has extended an invitation to members of the task force and city staff to attend the monthly luncheon on the third Monday of August. The lunch is held at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Avenue at 12:00 noon. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Brian Hannigan, Alexandria Public Information Officer stated that all information will be posted on the Enews link on the city website. Subscribers to this site may choose from a variety of information or choose to have access to all that is posted. He also stated that members of the city staff are working to make more information available.

It was also suggested to send flyers home with children as they begin school and/or with the PTA members.

The task force decided to distribute a fact sheet in a question and answer format. This fact sheet will contain information provided by the Fire Department, Planning and Zoning, and the Office of Housing. It will also direct readers to the website for additional information and copies of previous meetings minutes. John Starcher has volunteered to put together the fact sheet. He will submit to the entire task force for review before it is distributed to the public.

### **Timeline**

Michelle Evans, Deputy City Manager notified the Task Force that the project may be delayed until the October planning session, which will provide additional time for outreach. This will be discussed further at the meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, Emrich, & Walsh, P.C.**

Specific questions will be compiled for the Developer for a future meeting. While they had representation at the previous meeting, they may have been unaware that comments were expected. Due to vacation schedules, a representative will not be in attendance on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. However, Attorney, Cathy Puskas will be present on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Planning and Zoning**

The members of the task force wanted clarification on the Monroe Street bridge project and the accessibility of apparatus from Station 204 on Powhatan and Second into the Potomac Yard development. The Monroe Street Bridge will be straightened, but there will be no other new roads between Potomac Yard and Station 204. Chief Mesaris reminded the group that the fire department would utilize local roads within the development rather than rely upon Route 1 and Glebe Road. In addition, the intersections on Swann, Custis, and East Glebe will all be controlled and the Fire Department may have the ability to preempt the traffic lights.

### **Future Agendas**

The Office of Housing will have a presentation available for the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Schwartz suggested postponing the meeting on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> in order to complete additional outreach. An extended timeline will allow for the task force to perform additional

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outreach. The task force decided that community meetings were an important outreach program and therefore rejected postponing the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The group completed the meeting by composing a template for the recommendation to City Council. The template includes an executive summary of the project and the pros and cons. The recommendation portion will be left blank until further research is completed.

The next meeting will be held at 7pm at the Mount Vernon Community School on Commonwealth Avenue.

The following is the meeting schedule as it stands to date.

Tuesday – 7 – 9 p.m. - **Aug 15th** Task Force work session (suggest Mt Vernon or Cora Kelly Rec. Center)

Tuesday – 7 – 9 p.m. - **Aug 22nd** *Cora Kelly* public comment invited

Tuesday - 7 – 9 p.m. - **Aug 29th** *GW Middle School* public comment invited

Tuesday – 7 – 9 p.m. - **Sep 5th** Place to be determined public comment invited Final Public Meeting (suggest auditorium at GW Middle School or Mt. Vernon with Audio & Visual Support) Tuesday

Thursday – 7 – 9 p.m. - **Sep 7th** Task Force work session (suggest Mt Vernon or Cora Kelly Rec. Center)

Sunday – 2 – 5 p.m. - **Sep 10th** Task Force work session (suggest Mt Vernon or Cora Kelly Rec. Center)

Friday – 6 – 9 p.m. **Sep 15th** (order dinner in?) Task Force Finalizes Report (suggest Mt Vernon or Cora Kelly Rec. Center)